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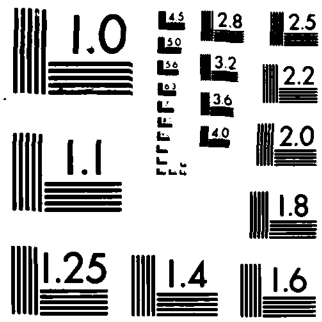
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ON THE MEAN SQUARED ERROR OF NONPARAMETRIC QUANTILE ESTIMATORS UNDER RANDOM RIGHT-CENSORSHIP*

by

Y. L. Lio and W. J. Padgett

University of South Carolina
Statistics Technical Report No. 122
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DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

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ABSTRACT

For randomly right-censored data, new asymptotic expressions for the mean squared errors of the product-limit quantile estimator and a kernel-type quantile estimator are presented in this paper. From these results a comparison of the two quantile estimators with respect to their mean squared errors is given.

1. INTRODUCTION

One characteristic of a probability distribution function that is of interest in many situations is the quantile function. The quantile function of a distribution function G is defined by $Q(p) = G^{-1}(p) = \inf\{x: G(x) \geq p\}$, $0 \leq p \leq 1$. For a random (uncensored) sample from G, the sample quantile function, $G_n^{-1}(p) = \inf\{x: G_n(x) \geq p\}$, has been used as a nonparametric estimator of $Q(p)$, where G_n denotes the sample distribution function. Many of the known results about $G_n^{-1}(p)$ have been presented by Csörgo (1983). In addition, Falk (1984, 1985) has studied the mean squared errors of the sample quantile and

kernel-type estimators and obtained asymptotic normality results for kernel estimators. Yang (1985) has obtained some convergence properties of kernel estimators of $Q(p)$ and has presented some simulation results comparing kernel-type estimators with other estimators.

For right-censored data, Sander (1975) discussed the estimation of $Q(p)$ by the quantile function of the product-limit estimator. She and Cheng (1984) derived asymptotic properties and Csörgő (1983) presented strong approximation results for that estimator.

For randomly right-censored data, Padgett (1986) discussed a smooth nonparametric estimator of the quantile function, defined by $Q_n(p) = h^{-1} \int_0^1 \hat{Q}_n(t)\, K((t-p)/h)\, dt$, where $\hat{Q}_n$ denotes the product-limit quantile function, K is a kernel function, and h is the bandwidth. This estimator, which had been mentioned briefly by Parzen (1979), was shown to be strongly consistent, and Q_n and an approximation, Q_n^*, were shown to be almost surely asymptotically equivalent. The asymptotic normality of Q_n and Q_n^* and some asymptotic mean equivalence and mean square convergence results were obtained by Lio, Padgett and Yu (1986) and Lio and Padgett (1986). Some simulation results in Padgett (1986) showed that, for exponential life and censoring distributions for fixed n and p, there were values of h for which the mean squared errors of $Q_n(p)$ were smaller than those of $\hat{Q}_n(p)$. More extensive simulations by Padgett and Thombs (1986) indicated the same results for several families of life distributions, kernel functions, and censoring distributions.

In this paper, new asymptotic expressions for the mean squared errors of $\hat{Q}_n(p)$ and $Q_n(p)$ are derived. The conditions on $Q_n(p)$ here are less restrictive than those required for the mean square convergence results of Lio and Padgett (1986). The expressions provide a comparison of the mean squared errors of these two estimators for small h and large n. In Section 2 some further notation and definitions are presented. The asymptotic expression for the mean squared error of the product-limit

quantile function is given in Section 3, and the result for the kernel estimator Q_n is derived in Section 4. It should be mentioned that the order statistic methods used by Falk (1984, 1985) to obtain an asymptotic expression for the mean squared error of the empirical quantile function cannot be used to study the mean squared error of the product-limit quantile function due to the unequal random jumps in the product-limit distribution function.

2. NOTATION AND PRELIMINARIES

Let $X_1^o, \ldots, X_n^o$ denote the true survival times of n items or individuals that are censored on the right by a sequence U_1, U_2, ..., U_n which in general may be either constants or random variables. It is assumed that the X_i^o's are nonnegative independent identically distributed random variables with common unknown distribution function F_o and unknown quantile function $Q^o = F_o^{-1}$. The observed right-censored data are denoted by the pairs (X_i, Δ_i), i=1,..., n where

$$X_i = \min\{X_i^o, U_i\}, \qquad \Delta_i = \begin{cases} 1 \text{ if } X_i^o \le U_i \\ \\ 0 \text{ if } X_i^o > U_i . \end{cases}$$

Let (Z_i, Λ_i), i=1,...,n, denote the ordered X_i's along with their corresponding Δ_i's. A popular estimator of the survival function $S_o = 1-F_o$ is the product-limit estimator of Kaplan and Meier (1958), shown to be "self-consistent" by Efron (1967) and defined by

$$\hat{P}_n(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 \le t \le Z_1, \\ \prod_{i=1}^{k-1} \left(\frac{n-i}{n-i+1}\right)^{\Lambda_i}, & Z_{k-1} < t \le Z_k, \quad k=2,\ldots,n \\ 0, & t > Z_n . \end{cases}$$

Denote the product-limit estimator of $F_o(t)$ by $\hat{F}_n(t) = 1 - \hat{P}_n(t)$, and let s_j denote the jump of $\hat{P}_n$ at Z_j, that is,

$$s_j = \begin{cases} 1 - \hat{P}_n(Z_2), & j = 1 \\ \hat{P}_n(Z_j) - \hat{P}_n(Z_{j+1}), & j = 2,\ldots,n-1 \\ \hat{P}_n(Z_n), & j = n. \end{cases}$$

Note that $s_j=0$ if and only if $\Lambda_j = 0$, $j < n$, i.e. whenever Z_j is a censored observation. Also, denote $S_i \equiv \hat{F}_n(Z_{i+1}) = \sum_{j=1}^{i} s_j$, $i=1,\ldots,n$, with $S_0 \equiv 0$, $Z_0 \equiv 0$, and $Z_{n+1} \equiv Z_n + \varepsilon$, for some positive constant ε.

It is natural to estimate $Q^o(p)$ by the product-limit (PL) quantile function $\hat{Q}_n(p) = \inf\{t: \hat{F}_n(t) \geq p\}$. The kernel-type estimator $Q_n(p)$ studied by Padgett (1986) is written as

$$\begin{aligned} Q_n(p) &= h^{-1} \int_0^1 \hat{Q}_n(t)K((t-p)/h)dt \\ &= h^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} Z_i \int_{S_{i-1}}^{S_i} K((t-p)/h)dt, \qquad (2.1) \end{aligned}$$

for a kernel function K and bandwidth h.

For the results here, the random right-censorship model will be assumed; that is, $U_1,\ldots,U_n$ constitute a random sample from a distribution H (usually unknown) and are independent of $X_1^o,\ldots, X_n^o$. The distribution function of each X_i, $i=1,\ldots,n$, is then $F = 1 - (1-F_o)(1-H)$.

For a distribution function G, let $T_G = \sup\{t: G(t)<1\}$.

3. MEAN SQUARED ERROR OF THE PL QUANTILE FUNCTION

In this section, an asymptotic expression for the mean squared error of the PL quantile function is derived. In the proof of this result, $K^*(t,s)$ denotes the generalized Kiefer process (cf. Csörgő, 1983, p. 118).

Theorem 3.1 Let p be such that $0 \leq p < \min\{1, T_{H(Q^o)}\}$. Suppose H is continuous and Q^o is twice differentiable in a neighborhood of p with bounded second derivative on a neighborhood of p. Then for large n, $E\{[\hat{Q}_n(p)-Q^o(p)]^2\}$ exists and

$$E\{[\hat{Q}_n(p)-Q^o(p)]^2\} = n^{-1} (Q^{o\prime}(p))^2 (1-p)^2 \int_0^p \frac{dx}{(1-x)^2(1-H(Q^o(x)))} + O(n^{-3/2}) + o(n^{-1}). \qquad (3.1)$$

<u>Proof:</u> Denoting the PL quantile function based on the uniform distribution on (0,1) by $U_n(p)$, we have $E\{[\hat{Q}_n(p)]^2\} = E\{[F_o^{-1}(U_n(p))]^2\}$. By Aly, Csörgo and Horváth (1985), $U_n(p) \le p^*$ a.s. if $p < p^* < \min\{1, T_{H(Q^o)}\}$ so that $F_o^{-1}(U_n(p)) \le F_o^{-1}(p^*)$ a.s. Hence, $E\{[\hat{Q}_n(p) - Q^o(p)]^2\} < \infty$.

Next, define the events $A_n = \{|U_n(p)-p|>\varepsilon\}$ for fixed $\varepsilon > 0$. Then

$$E\{[\hat{Q}_n(p) - Q^o(p)]^2\} = E\{[\hat{Q}_n(p)-Q^o(p)]^2 I_{A_n}\} + E\{[\hat{Q}_n(p)-Q^o(p)]^2 I_{A_n^c}\}, \qquad (3.2)$$

where I_A denotes the indicator random variable of the event A. By Földes and Rejtö (1981) and the symmetry property as in Sander (1975), $\varepsilon>0$ can be chosen so that $P[|U_n(p)-p|>\varepsilon] \le d_o \exp(-nd_1)$ for some positive constants d_o and d_1 where d_o does not depend on F_o and H. Then from (3.2)

$$E\{[\hat{Q}_n(p)-Q^o(p)]^2\} = O(\exp(-nc)) + E\{[\hat{Q}_n(p)-Q^o(p)]^2 I_{A_n^c}\} \qquad (3.3)$$

for some constant $c > 0$.

Now the second term on the right side of (3.3) is

$$E\{[F_o^{-1}(U_n(p))-F_o^{-1}(p)]^2 I_{A_n^c}\}$$
$$= E\{[Q^{o\prime}(p)\ (U_n(p)-p) + Q^{o\prime\prime}(p_1)\ (U_n(p)-p)^2/2]^2 I_{A_n^c}\} \qquad (3.4)$$

where p_1 belongs to a neighborhood of p. But (3.4) is equal to

$$E\{ Q^{o\prime}(p)(U_n(p)-p)^2\ I_{A_n^c}\} + O(E[|U_n(p)-p|^3])$$
$$= (Q^{o\prime}(p))^2\ E[(U_n(p)-p)^2] + O(n^{-3/2})$$

since

$$n^{3/2}|U_n(p)-p|^3 \le n^{3/2}\sup_{0\le p\le p^*}(|U_n(p)-p|^3)$$
$$\le n^{3/2}\sup_{0\le p\le p^{**}}(|\alpha_n(p)-p|^3),$$

the last term of which is uniformly integrable, where $p^* < p^{**} < \min\{1, T_{H(Q^o)}\}$ and α_n is the PL empirical quantile function based on the uniform distribution over (0,1).

So

$$E\{[\hat{Q}_n(p)-Q^o(p)]^2\} = (Q^{o\prime}(p))^2 n^{-1} E\{[n^{1/2}(U_n(p)-p)$$

$$-n^{-\frac12}K^*(p,n)]^2 + 2\,[n^{\frac12}(U_n(p)-p)$$
$$-n^{-\frac12}K^*(p,n)]n^{-\frac12}K^*(p,n)$$
$$+[n^{-\frac12}K^*(p,n)]^2\} = O(n^{-3/2})$$
$$= (Q^{o\prime}(p))^2 n^{-1} E\{[n^{\frac12}(U_n(p)-p)-n^{-\frac12}K^*(p,n)]^2\}$$
$$+(Q^{o\prime}(p))^2 n^{-1} E\{2[n(U_n(p)-p)-n^{-\frac12}K^*(p,n)]n^{-\frac12}K^*(p,n)\}$$
$$+(Q^{o\prime}(p))^2(1-p)^2 n^{-1}\int_0^p \frac{dx}{(1-x)^2(1-H(Q^o(x)))} + O(n^{-3/2}).$$

The result of the theorem follows from the facts that $E\{[n^{\frac12}(U_n(p)-p)-n^{-\frac12}K^*(p,n)]^2\} < \infty$ and $E\{[n^{\frac12}(U_n(p)-p)-n^{-\frac12}K^*(p,n)]n^{-\frac12}K^*(p,n)\} < \infty$, since $[n^{\frac12}(U_n(p)-p)-n^{-\frac12}K^*(p,n)]^r$ is uniformly integrable for $r \geq 1$ and $n^{\frac12}(U_n(p)-p)-n^{-\frac12}K^*(p,n)\to 0$ a.s. as $n\to\infty$.///

4. MEAN SQUARED ERROR OF THE KERNEL ESTIMATOR

The mean squared error of the kernel quantile estimator $Q_n(p)$ is considered in this section. Theorem 4.1 gives the asymptotic expression.

Theorem 4.1 Let p be such that $0 \leq p < \min\{1, T_{H(Q^o)}\}$. Suppose H is continuous, Q^o is twice differentiable in a neighborhood of p with bounded second derivative, and $Q^{o\prime}(p) > 0$. Assume that the kernel K has support $[-c,c]$ and $\int K(x)dx = 1$ and $\int x\,K(x)dx = 0$ for some $c > 0$. Then

$$E\{[Q_n(p)-Q^o(p)]^2\} = n^{-1}(Q^{o\prime}(p))^2(1-p)^2\int_0^p \frac{dx}{(1-x)^2[1-H(Q^o(x))]}$$
$$+\,2n^{-1}(1-p)^2(Q^{o\prime}(p))^2\int_{-c}^{c} K(t)[1-\tilde{K}(t)]\int_p^{p+ht}\frac{dx}{(1-x)^2[1-H(Q^o(x))]}\,dt$$
$$+O(n^{-3/2})+O(h^2)+O(h^2n^{-1})+o(hn^{-1})+o(n^{-1}),$$

where $\tilde{K}(t) = \int_{-c}^{t} K(x)dx$ for $-c \leq t \leq c$.

Proof: First, write

$$E\{\,[Q_n(p)-Q^o(p)]^2\} = E\{[\int_{-c}^{c}(\hat{Q}_n(p+hu)-Q^o(p+hu))K(u)du]^2\}$$
$$+\,\{\int_{-c}^{c}[Q^o(p+hu)-Q^o(p)]K(u)du\}^2$$
$$+\,2E\{\int_{-c}^{c}[Q^o(p+hu)-Q^o(p)]K(u)du\cdot\int_{-c}^{c}[\hat{Q}_n(p+hu)$$

$$-Q^{o}(p+hu)]K(u)du\}. \quad (4.1)$$

By the assumption that Q^{o} has bounded second derivative on some neighborhood of p,

$$\{\int_{-c}^{c}[Q^{o}(p+hu)-Q^{o}(p)]K(u)du\}^{2} = O(h^{2}). \quad (4.2)$$

For $\varepsilon > 0$ define the events $A_n = \{|U_n(p+hu)-(p+hu)| > \varepsilon\}$ where U_n is the PL quantile function based on the uniform distribution on (0,1) as in the proof of Theorem 3.1. By the same argument in that proof, choosing h small such that $hc < \min\{1, T_{H(Q^{o})}\}$, we have $P(A_n) \leq d_o \exp(-nd_1)$ for some positive constants d_o and d_1. Now write

$$E\{[\int_{-c}^{c}(\hat{Q}_n(p+hu)-Q^{o}(p+hu))K(u)du]^{2}\} = E_1 + E_2,$$

where

$$E_1 = E\{[\int_{-c}^{c}(\hat{Q}_n(p+hu)-Q^{o}(p+hu))K(u)du] \ . \ I_{A_n^c}\}.$$

and

$$E_2 = E\{[\int_{-c}^{c}(\hat{Q}_n(p+hu)-Q^{o}(p+hu))K(u)du] \ . \ I_{A_n}\}.$$

By the same argument as in the proof of Theorem 3.1, since $p+hu < \min\{1, T_{H(Q^{o})}\}$, $|E_2| = O(\exp(-nd_1'))$. Applying Taylor's formula to E_1 and using Sander's (1975) inequality (the symmetry property) gives

$$E_1 = E\{[\int_{-c}^{c} K(x)(U_n(p+hu)-(p+hu))Q^{o\prime}(p+hu)du]^{2}\}$$
$$+ O(E[\sup_{0\leq p\leq T^{*}} |\hat{U}_n(p)-p|^{3}]) + O(\exp(-nd_1')),$$

where $p < p+hc < T^{*} < \min\{1,T_{H(Q^{o})}\}$. From the proof of Theorem 2 of Lio, Padgett and Yu (1986) for large n, $O(E[\sup_{0\leq p\leq T^{*}} |\hat{U}_n(p)-p|^{3}]) = O(n^{-3/2})$. Also, by the same argument as in the proof of Theorem 3.1,

$$E\{[\int_{-c}^{c}K(x)(U_n(p+hx)-(p+hx))Q^{o\prime}(p+hx)dx]^{2}\}$$
$$= n^{-1}E\{[\int_{-c}^{c}K(x)[n^{\frac{1}{2}}(U_n(p+hx)-(p+hx))$$
$$- n^{-\frac{1}{2}}K^{*}(p+hx,n)]dx]^{2}\}(Q^{o\prime}(p))^{2}$$
$$+ 2n^{-1}E\{[\int_{-c}^{c}K(x)[n^{\frac{1}{2}}(U_n(p+hx)-(p+hx))$$
$$- n^{-\frac{1}{2}}K^{*}(p+hx,n)]dx[\int_{-c}^{c}K(x)n^{-\frac{1}{2}}K^{*}(p+hx,n)dx]]\}(Q^{o\prime}(p))^{2}$$

$$+ n^{-1}(Q^{o\prime}(p))^2 E\{[\int_{-c}^{c} K(x) n^{-\frac{1}{2}} K^*(p+hx,n)dx]^2\}$$

$$+O(n^{-3/2}) + o(hn^{-1})$$

$$= o(n^{-1}) + n^{-1}(Q^{o\prime}(p))^2 E\{[\int_{-c}^{c} K(x) n^{-\frac{1}{2}} K^*(p+hx,n)dx]^2\}$$

$$+O(n^{-3/2}) + o(hn^{-1}).$$

Now, by a result of Aly, Csörgö and Horváth (1985),

$$E\{[\int_{-c}^{c} K(x) n^{-\frac{1}{2}} K^*(p+hx,n)dx]^2\}$$

$$= E\{ \int_{-c}^{c} n^{-1}(1-p-hx)W(d(p+hx),n)K(x)dx$$

$$\times \int_{-c}^{c} (1-p-ht)W(d(p+ht),n)K(t)dt\}$$

$$= A_1 + A_2 + A_3,$$

where

$$A_1 = n^{-1}E\{ \int_{-c}^{c}\int_{-c}^{c}(1-p)^2 W(d(p+hx),n)W(d(p+ht),n)$$

$$\times K(x)K(t)dxdt\},$$

$$A_2 = -2n^{-1}h(1-p)\ E\{\int_{-c}^{c}\int_{-c}^{c} x\ K(x)K(t)\ W(d(p+hx),n)$$

$$\times W(d(p+ht),n)dxdt\},$$

$$A_3 = n^{-1}h^2 E\{\int_{-c}^{c}\int_{-c}^{c} xtK(x)K(t)W(d(p+hx),n)$$

$$\times W(d(p+ht),n)dxdt\},$$

and $W(s,t)$ denotes a two-parameter Weiner process with $E[W(s,t)]=0$ and $E[W(s,t)W(s',t')] = \min\{s,s'\} \min\{t,t'\}$ with $d(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{t}(1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q^o(x))]^{-1}dx$.

Now,

$$A_1 = n^{-1}(1-p)^2\int_{-c}^{c}\int_{-c}^{t} K(t)K(u)\int_{0}^{p+hu}(1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q^o(x))]^{-1}dx\ du\ dt$$

$$+ n^{-1}(1-p)^2\int_{-c}^{c}\int_{t}^{c} K(t)K(u)\int_{0}^{p+hu}(1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q^o(x))]^{-1}dx\ du\ dt$$

$$= n^{-1}(1-p)^2\{\int_{-c}^{c}\int_{-c}^{t} K(t)K(u)\int_{0}^{p}(1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q^o(x))]^{-1}dx\ du\ dt$$

$$+ \int_{-c}^{c}\int_{-c}^{t} K(t)K(u)\int_{p}^{p+hu}(1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q^o(x))]^{-1}dx\ du\ dt$$

$$+ \int_{-c}^{c} K(t)[1-\tilde{K}(t)]\int_{0}^{p}(1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q^o(x))]^{-1}dx\ dt$$

$$+ \int_{-c}^{c} K(t)[1-\tilde{K}(t)]\int_{p}^{p+ht}(1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q\ (x))]^{-1}dx\ dt\}.$$

Combine the first and third terms in the last expression for A_1,

and in the second term let $g(u) = \int_p^{p+hu} (1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q^o(x))]^{-1}dx$ and change the order of integration. Then combine the second and fourth terms to get

$$A_1 = n^{-1}(1-p)^2 \int_0^p (1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q^o(x))]^{-1}dx$$
$$+ 2n^{-1}(1-p)^2 \int_{-c}^{c} K(t)[1-\tilde{K}(t)] \int_p^{p+ht} (1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q^o(x))]^{-1}dx\ dt.$$

By the same arguments, A_2 and A_3 become

$$A_2 = -2\ n^{-1}h(1-p)\int_{-c}^{c} tK(t)\int_{-c}^{t} K(u)\int_p^{p+hu} (1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q^o(x))]^{-1}dx\ du\ dt$$
$$-4\ n^{-1}h(1-p)\int_{-c}^{c} tK(t)[1-\tilde{K}(t)]\int_p^{p+ht} (1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q^o(x))]^{-1}dx\ dt$$

and

$$A_3 = 2h^2\int_{-c}^{c} tK(t)\int_p^{p+ht} (1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q^o(x))]^{-1}dx\left(\int_t^c sK(s)ds\right)dt.$$

Finally, combining these results for E_1 and the result for E_2, (4.1) yields the asymptotic expression of the theorem.///

Define $Q^o(p,h) = h^{-1}\int_0^1 Q^o(t)K((t-p)/h)dt$. Then an asymptotic expression for $E\{[Q_n(p)-Q^o(p,h)]^2\}$ can be obtained similar to that in Theorem 4.1.

<u>Theorem 4.2</u> With the same hypotheses as in Theorem 4.1, for $0 < h < \delta$ with small enough $\delta < 1$,

$$E\{[Q_n(p) - Q^o(p,h)]^2\}$$
$$= n^{-1}(1-p)^2(Q^{o\prime}(p))^2\int_0^p (1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q^o(x))]^{-1}dx$$
$$+ 2n^{-1}(1-p)^2(Q^{o\prime}(p))^2\int_{-c}^{c} K(t)[1-\tilde{K}(t)]$$
$$\times \int_p^{p+ht} (1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q^o(x))]^{-1}dx\ dt$$
$$+ O(n^{-3/2}) + O(h^2n^{-1}) + o(hn^{-1}) + o(n^{-1}).$$

Note that for h sufficiently small, we have $E\{[Q_n(p)-Q^o(p)]^2\} = E\{[Q_n(p)-Q^o(p,h)]^2\} + O(h^2)$. Hence, the two expectations are close for large n and small h. A

comparison of the mean squared error of the PL quantile function with the result of Theorem 4.2 can be stated in the following corollary. The condition on the kernel function in this corollary is the same condition as in Falk (1984).

Corollary 4.3 If $\int_{-c}^{c} tK(t)\tilde{K}(t)\,dt > 0$, then under the conditions of Theorems 3.1 and 4.2, there exists a $\delta > 0$ such that for any fixed bandwidth $0 < h < \delta$ there is an N_o so that when $n > N_o$,
$E\{[Q_n(p) - Q^o(p,h)]^2\} - E\{[\hat{Q}_n(p)-Q^o(p)]^2\} < 0$.

Proof: Write

$$\frac{n}{h}\left[E\{[Q_n(p)-Q^o(p,h)]^2\} - E\{[\hat{Q}_n(p)-Q^o(p)]^2\}\right]$$
$$= 2h^{-1}(1-p)^2(Q^{o\prime}(p))^2 \int_{-c}^{c} K(t)[1-\tilde{K}(t)]$$
$$\times\int_p^{p+ht}(1-x)^{-2}[1-H(Q^o(x))]^{-1}dx\,dt$$
$$+ O(n^{-\frac{1}{2}}h^{-1}) + o(1) + h^{-1}o(1) + O(h)$$

which for large n and small h is approximately

$$-2(Q^{o\prime}(p))^2 \int_{-c}^{c} tK(t)\tilde{K}(t)dt[1-H(Q^o(p))]^{-1} < 0.///$$

Remarks: An attempt to extend Falk's (1985) methods for kernel type quantile estimators to the case of random right-censorship in a straightforward manner presents difficult mathematical problems. In order to obtain a direct comparison of the mean squared error of $\hat{Q}_n(p)$ with that of $Q_n(p)$, a rate of convergence faster than the $o(n^{-1})$ term in the expression in Theorem 4.1 is needed. However, such a rate is not available. A relationship between the rates at which $h \to 0$ and $n \to \infty$ seems to be required to determine the relative behavior of these two estimators with respect to their mean squared errors.

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